

COURT-1

IN THE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL FOR ELECTRICITY
(Appellate Jurisdiction)

DFR No : 227 of 2025 & IA No. 986 OF 2025

Dated: 3rd July, 2025

Present: Hon`ble Mr. Justice Ramesh Ranganathan, Chairperson
Hon`ble Ms. Seema Gupta, Technical Member (Electricity)

In the matter of:

Western Electricity Supply Company of Odisha Limited & Ors. Appellant(s)

Versus

Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission & Ors. Respondent(s)

Counsel on record for the Appellant(s) : Hasan Murtaza
Sameer Sharma
Ankit Kumar Sinha
for App. 1

Hasan Murtaza
Sameer Sharma
Ankit Kumar Sinha
for App. 2

Hasan Murtaza
Sameer Sharma
Ankit Kumar Sinha
for App. 3

Counsel on record for the Respondent(s) : --

ORDER

IA NO. 986 OF 2025
(For waiver of court fee)

This appeal is preferred against the order passed on remand by the OERC for tariff years 2006-2007 onwards till 2014-2015. This application is filed seeking exemption from payment of the prescribed court fee of Rs.1.00 Lakh for filing each Appeal, contending that, though

the Appellant had raised a claim of around Rs.17000 Crores, the Commission had denied their claim in its entirety.

It is indeed disconcerting that the Appellant, whose claim in these Appeals is of around Rs.17000 Crores, should seek waiver of court fee of Rs.27.00 Lakhs for 27 appeals, since waiver of court fees is considered only when the appellant-applicant is an indigent person. As the Appellant has paid court fee of Rs.3.00 Lakhs for three appeals, their liability for payment is for the balance Rs.24.00 Lakhs for the other 24 appeals. We see no reason to waive the stipulated court fee which, in any event, goes directly to the Consolidated Fund of India, and is not retained by this Tribunal.

The application, seeking exemption from payment of court fee, is dismissed. The Appellant is granted three weeks' time to pay the stipulated court fee.

DFR NO. 227 OF 2025

Post the matter on **28.07.2025**.

Seema Gupta
Technical Member (Electricity)

Justice Ramesh Ranganathan
Chairperson

tpd/dk/tc